

**THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

- 5 1. A method of cryogenic treatment of tungsten carbide
containing cobalt, comprising the steps of:
 pre-treating tungsten carbide containing cobalt with
microwave sintering, thereby changing the properties of the
tungsten carbide;
- 10 lowering the temperature of the microwave sintered
tungsten carbide gradually to cryogenic levels; and
 raising the temperature of the microwave sintered
tungsten carbide gradually back to ambient temperatures.
- 15 2. The method as defined in Claim 1, in which the microwave
sintered tungsten carbide is held at cryogenic levels to
permit cryogenic penetration into the microwave sintered
tungsten carbide, prior to the raising of the microwave
sintered tungsten carbide back to ambient temperatures.